

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A storage system, comprising:  
a plurality of disk control clusters each including a plurality of channel interface units for interfacing with host computers, a plurality of disk interface units for interfacing with disk drives, and local shared memory units for storing data to be read out of or written to said disk drives and control information about transfer of said data and management information of said disk drives, said plurality of disk control clusters implementing the data read/write operation in response to a data read/write request from one of said host computers with said channel interface units to transfer data between said one of said host computers and said local shared memory units, and with said disk interface units to transfer data between said local shared memory units and said disk drives; and  
global shared memory units for storing management information of said disk control clusters,  
wherein said disk control clusters are connected with each other by an interconnection, and said global shared memory units are connected to said interconnection.
2. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 1, wherein a connection portion for connecting said channel interface units, said disk interface units and said local shared memory units in a respective one of said disk control clusters connects to connecting portions of other disk control clusters via said interconnection.
3. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said channel interface units and said disk interface units in a respective one of said disk control clusters directly connect to said local shared memory units therein, and said local shared memory units in the respective one of said disk control clusters connect to local shared memory units of other disk control clusters via said interconnection.
4. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said channel interface units and said disk interface units in a respective one of said disk control clusters directly connect to said local shared memory units therein, and a connecting portion of said channel interface units and said disk interface units in the respective

one of said disk control clusters is connected with connecting portions of other disk control clusters via said interconnection.

5. (Previously Presented) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of disk control clusters each including a plurality of channel interface units for interfacing with host computers, a plurality of disk interface units for interfacing with disk drives, a connection portion for connecting said plurality of said channel interface units to said plurality of said disk interface units, and

global shared memory units for storing data to be read out of and written to said disk drives, control information about transfer of said data, management information of said disk drives, and management information of said disk control clusters,

wherein said connecting portion in each of said disk control clusters are connected with each other via an interconnection, and said global shared memory units connect to said interconnection.

6. (Previously Presented) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of disk control clusters each including a plurality of channel interface units for interfacing with host computers, a plurality of disk interface units for interfacing with disk drives, and local shared memory units having a first memory for storing data to be read out of and written to said disk drives and a second memory for storing control information about data transfer between said channel interface units and said disk interface units and said first memory, and management information of said disk drives, said plurality of disk control clusters implementing the data read/write operation in response to a data read/write request from one of said host computers with said channel interface units to transfer data between said host computers and said first memory in said local shared memory unit and with said disk interface units to transfer data between said first memory in said local shared memory unit and said disk drives; and

global shared memory units for storing management information of said disk control clusters,

wherein said channel interface units and said disk interface units in each of said disk control clusters directly connect to said second memory in said local shared memory units therein,

a first connection portion of said channel interface units and said disk interface units in a respective one of the disk control clusters connects to first connection portions in other disk control clusters via a first interconnection,

said global shared memory units connect to the first interconnection,

a second connection portion, where said channel interface units and said disk interface units and said first memory in said local shared memory unit in the respective one of said disk control clusters are connected, connects to second connection portions in said other disk control clusters via a second interconnection.

7. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to claim 6, wherein said channel interface units and said disk interface units of each of said disk control clusters directly connect to said first memory in said local shared memory units therein, said first memory in said local shared memory units in the respective one of said disk control clusters connects to memories in local shared memory units in said other disk control clusters via a second interconnection.
8. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to claim 1, wherein said local shared memory units store information indicating storage areas managed by a respective one of said disk control clusters,

said global shared memory units store information indicating storage areas managed by said disk control clusters,

a processor in said channel interface units accesses to said local shared memory units in the respective one of said disk control clusters when said one of the host computers makes the data read/write request to said channel interface units therein to identify whether or not the requested data is stored in the storage areas managed by the respective one of said disk control clusters, and, if not stored therein, accesses to said global shared memory units to check another one of said disk control clusters where said requested data is stored.